

SUNSHINE REFORM TASK FORCE MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, July 24, 2008
6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

City Hall, Wing Rooms 118-119

Present: Ed Rast, Strong Neighborhoods Initiative PAC; Ken Podgorsek, United Neighborhoods of SCC; Joan Rivas-Cosby, Five Wounds/Brookwood Terrace Neighborhood Advisory Committee; Mary Ann Ruiz, Parks and Recreation Commission; Trixie Johnson, Former Councilmember; Bert Robinson, San José Mercury News; Dan Pulcrano, Silicon Valley Leadership Group

Absent: Brenda Otey, At Large-Representative; Bobbie Fishler, League of Women Voters; Nanci Williams, San José/Silicon Valley Chamber of Commerce; Edward Davis, Orrick Law Firm (Legal Counsel); Virginia Holtz, Willow Glen Neighborhood Association; Bob Brownstein, South Bay Labor Council; Dave Zenker, Falls Creek Neighborhood Association.

Staff: Lisa Herrick, Senior Deputy City Attorney; Tom Manheim, Office of the City Manager; Dottie Disher, Office of the City Clerk; Tom Norris, Office of the City Manager

I. Comments from the Chair
The Chair reviewed the agenda.

II. Comments from City Staff
Staff had no comments.

Ken Podgorsek advised the Task Force that the United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County had entered into a contract with the City to be the Fiscal Agent for two Neighborhood Grant Programs (CAP Grants and San Jose Beautiful Grants).

Ed Rast disclosed that he is on the board of the United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County.

III. Approval of the June 19, 2008, Meeting Minutes.

Upon a motion by Trixie Johnson, seconded by Ken Podgorsek, the Task Force unanimously approved the June 19, 2008, meeting minutes with one amendment; the Task Force corrected the spelling of Mary Ann Ruiz's name.

IV. Transmittal of Phase II Report to Rules Open Government Committee

Bert Robinson reviewed the draft Phase II Report cover letter addressed to Council. After discussion, the Task Force unanimously approved the letter (motion by Ken Podgorsek, seconded by Joan Rivas-Cosby) with the following changes:

- First paragraph, sentence, delete the word "senior."

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- Third paragraph last sentence to read: “The Task Force believes that leaving city policy and procedures as they are is inconsistent with the charge we received from the City Council, as well as the community’s clearly expressed expectations for change.”
- Fifth paragraph, second sentence, insert the word “Reform” before “Task Force.”
- Fifth paragraph, insert after second sentence “We received extensive input from community members and organizations, many of whom recommended stronger measures than we adopted.”
- Fifth paragraph, third sentence, replace “Our report raises difficult and time consuming issues, and while we expect them to undergo additional refinements” with “We recognize that Sunshine Reform will be complex and ongoing, it would not be constructive to continue the process without a strong commitment to significant change,”
- Sixth paragraph, first sentence, insert the word “Reform” before “Task Force.”
- Sixth paragraph, insert at the end “Better access to information, we believe, can make government more efficient and effective, as well as, result in sound fiscal decisions. The Task Force believes that transparency is a good investment.”
- Ninth paragraph, first sentence, delete the word “senior.”

V. Discussion of ROGC Schedule to Review Phase II Report

The Task Force discussed arrangements to ensure that the Task Force is represented at all Rules and Open Government Committee meetings in which its report will be considered. The Chair requested staff to inform them of schedule changes and to assist in the management of Task Force member attendance.

VI. Open Forum

There were no members of the public present who wished to speak.

VI. Meeting Adjournment

Upon a motion by Ken Podgorsek, seconded by Joan Rivas-Cosby and unanimously approved by the Task Force, the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.